



TIP OF THE SPEAR

NEW CRISIS RESPONSE TASK FORCE DEPLOYS TO SPAIN



The Marine Corps has begun deploying Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response (SPMAGTF-CR) to Morón Air Base in Spain. Six MV-22B Ospreys departed Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., on April 23, Gen. James F. Amos said during a Senate Appropriations hearing April 24. Amos told Congress that the new unit will be ready to respond quickly in a time of crisis in Africa. The turmoil in Libya, Algeria, Mali and other North African countries during the past year was the impetus for SPMAGTF-CR. The unit will include about 500 Marines and be constituted around a reinforced rifle

Force out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. [Read more](#)

company from II Marine Expeditionary



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

Wounded Marine Sgt. Gabe Martinez offers words of encouragement to Celeste Corcoran, 47, and her 18-year-old daughter, Sydney. The mother-daughter pair have undergone multiple surgeries at a Boston hospital since the bombing last week. Due to the severity of her injuries, doctors had to

amputate both of Celeste's legs below the knee. Martinez, also a double amputee, made the trip with Sgt. William Ganem, Capt. Cameron West, and Sailors Robert Donnelly and Josh Sharp. [Read more](#) (Video by Alyssa Carter)



IN THE NEWS

MARINE WEEK SEATTLE CANCELLED



The Marine Corps announced today the cancellation of Marine Week Seattle. Marine Week is the Corps' annual week-long community outreach event, scheduled to be held in Seattle, Wash., from Aug. 5-11. The cancellation of Marine Week Seattle is a result of overall sequestration impacts and reflects the Department of Defense's efforts to reduce the amount of military spending. "I want to personally thank Seattle's Mayor Mike McGinn and the City of Seattle for their unwavering support," said Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commander of Marine Forces Reserve. "While we face challenging times ahead, we are committed to our service to the nation and will prioritize efforts as necessary to complete our essential missions." [Read more](#)

MARINES RETURN 'DOWN UNDER'



Approximately 200 Marines with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, arrived aboard RAAF Base Darwin from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, as part of the second iteration of Marine Rotational Force - Darwin April 21. During their six-month deployment, the Marines will conduct unilateral and bilateral training at Australian Defence Force facilities in the Northern territory and will participate in other training evolutions in New Zealand and Australia. "I think all the Marines are looking forward to

training with the Australians," said 1st Lt. Richard Aronson, executive officer of the company. "I'm happy to be here, and I can't wait to learn more about our Australian counterparts." [Read more](#)

EXERCISE BOLD ALLIGATOR HONES AMPHIBIOUS SKILLS



The third annual Exercise Bold Alligator 2013 kicked off April 22 as Marines and Sailors aboard USS Bataan joined coalition forces to refine their amphibious skills. Hosted through May 2, Bold Alligator is a synthetic, scenario-driven exercise designed to train service members in an effort to continue revitalizing and improving their fundamental ability to integrate and execute large-scale maritime operations. "This exercise offers us a tremendous opportunity to increase our amphibious proficiency at a level beyond how our routinely deployed forces operate," said Brig. Gen. John K. Love, commanding general of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. [Read](#)

[more](#)

PACIFIC PIVOT BRINGS 'SINGLE NAVAL BATTLE' STRATEGY



As the U.S. pivots to the Asia-Pacific region, the Marine Corps and Navy are examining how to move personnel and equipment to operate in the vast theater. The emerging strategy will look past traditional three-ship configurations in Marine expeditionary units deployed as part of the Navy's amphibious ready groups, and refer to a "Single Naval Battle" concept that will put Marines on a variety of new ships, removing perceived gaps between forces operating by air, land and sea. Now, the Corps must determine how it will incorporate a variety of ships the service has never used before, while still considering current vessels it doesn't commonly

use. [Read more](#)

OSPREY JOINS 'MARINE ONE' SQUADRON

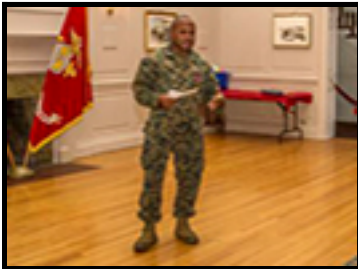


The Marine One helicopter squadron (HMX-1) responsible for flying



President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, cabinet members and other VIPs welcomed the MV-22B Osprey to its fleet April 19. The aircraft is painted green and will be used in a support role, transporting the president's staff and the media. The Corps has been gradually replacing the traditionally used CH-46E Sea Knights with the new aircraft, which flies like a plane but can take off and land like a helicopter. [Read more](#)

CORPS PAVES THE WAY FOR TRANSITION TO BUSINESS CAREER



Alabama native and former Marine Lt. Col. Ronald J. Peterson is the new owner and operator of a Portsmouth, Va., Chick-fil-A, and is proud to say his 20 years in the service prepared him for the role. The mission of the Marines may be far different from the mission of a restaurateur, but Peterson said what he learned in the Marine Corps has trained him well. "The core values that we have about honor, courage and commitment -- those things are very important in trying to start and maintain a business," he said. [Read more](#)

Also Read: Former Marine New Business Owner



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

APRIL 22, 2004

While on patrol in Iraq, Marines with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines were attacked and Cpl. Jason Lee Dunham deliberately covered an enemy grenade to save nearby Marines. He became the first Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War for his heroic action.



SEMPER FI

HONORING HEROES, RAISING AWARENESS



The Socks for Heroes campaign held a shootout in San Clemente, Calif., April 19, honoring members of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit killed in Nawa and Sangin, Afghanistan. Former regiment Marines competed in honor of all 21 lost comrades. "I know the families of many of these men, along with many of the Marines whose lives they touched during their too-brief time among us," said Jim Hogan, co-founder of Socks for Heroes. "I am grateful that their brothers continue to think of them and seek to honor them." [Read more](#)

OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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